

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The image processing method and apparatus set preliminarily a plurality of basic compression characteristics or basic expansion characteristics of image information, select one or more basic compression characteristics or basic expansion characteristics from the plurality of basic compression characteristics or basic expansion characteristics, and compress or expand gradation of the image information using the one or more basic compression characteristics or basic expansion characteristics. Optionally, these method and apparatus analyze the image information, set a processing condition for compressing or expanding the gradation of the image information in accordance with an analysis result and process the image information in accordance with the processing condition. The method and apparatus can perform the dodging processing having the excellent characteristics in a shorter period of processing time than the conventional method and can favorably enhance productivity of print production.